Yes, Sir. During the Financial Year 1998-99, computers costing Rs. 12.57 crores were procured.

(b) The orders were placed on 09.02.1999 and the computers were received in Delhi from August 16, 1999 to September 25, 1999.

(c) This is being enquired into.

Division of Jammu and Kashmir

†*169. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the news-item published in the Punjab Kesri dated 4th June, 2000, under the caption "America ki Jammu Kashmir ko teen tukdon main baatne ki saajish";

(b) whether Government have considered this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check such conspiracy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government have seen the report appearing in the Punjab Kesri of 4th June, 2000.

Government does not react to speculative reports. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the state is under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. Government remains firm in its resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of India.

The international community, including the United States, is aware of Government's position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The US Government has publicly stated on a number of occasions, including on 7th July, that the US does not seek any mediatory role in the Kashmir issue.

Superior variety of Gram

*170. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scientists of the Chowdhary

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University have developed a superior variety of gram; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to test it and release it to the public?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The scientists of Chowdhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University have developed two varieties of gram (chana) namely, HC 1 and HC 3 in the last few years. The HC-3 variety of gram is bold seeded, tolerant to wilt, blight and root rot diseases. It was released in 1999 for cultivation in the State of Haryana. Another variety HC 1 is early maturing, tolerant to wilt and root rot diseases. it is suitable for late sowing and rainfed conditions. It was released in 1990 for cultivation in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The University has also developed recently a new variety, namely, H-96-99 which is being tested in the Initial Varietal Trial of the All India Coordinated Research Project on gram.

Dereservation of products from SSI Units

*171. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federations of Associations of Small Industries of India have expressed concern over Government's announcement of dereservation of products in the name of empowering the small sector;

(b) if so, the details of representations received by Government and future reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have been trying to wind up SSIs in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Associations